

## FRANKLIN'S EXPEDITION.\*

THIS splendid work is an additional illustration of the long established claims of this country to preeminence in the improvement of maritime science, the discovery of new sources of human intercourse, and the advancement of those branches of natural history which are at once curious and useful. The arduous enterprize of exploring by land the northern coast of America, by the shores of Hudson's Bay, from the mouth of the Copper-Mine river to the eastward, with the view of facilitating the discovery of a North-West passage, was entrusted by his Majesty's government to Captain Franklin, who embarked on the 23d of May, 1819, on board the ship *Prince of Wales*, at Gravesend. The instructions given to Captain Franklin were judicious, full, and clear. He was informed, that the main object of the expedition was that of determining the latitudes and longitudes of the northern coast of North America, and the trending of the coast from the mouth of the Copper-Mine river to the Eastern extremity of that continent: that it was left to him to determine, according to circumstances whether it might be most advisable to proceed, at once, directly to the northward till he arrived at the sea-coast, and then explore westerly towards the Copper-Mine river; or advance, in the first instance, by the usual route, to the mouth of the Copper-Mine river, and from thence easterly, till he should reach the eastern extremity of that continent;—that, as another principal object of the Expedition was to amend the very defective geography of the northern part of North America, he was to be very careful to ascertain correctly the latitude and longitude of every remarkable spot upon his route, and of all the bays, harbours, rivers, headlands, &c. that might occur along the northern shore of the Continent;—that, in proceeding along the coast, he should erect conspicuous marks at places where ships might enter, or to which a boat could be sent; and deposit information as to the nature of the coast for the use of Lieutenant Parry;—that in the journal of his route, he should register the temperature of the air, at least three times in every twenty-four hours, together with the state of the wind and weather, and any other meteorological phenomenon;—that he should not neglect any opportunity of observing and noting down the dip and variation of the magnetic needle, and the intensity of the magnetic force:—and that he should take particular notice, of any, and what kind or degree of influence the aurora borealis might appear to exert on the magnetic needle, and whether that phenomenon was attended with noise, &c. &c.

The Lords of the Admiralty, anxious to promote the principal objects in view, selected, with peculiar care, three gentlemen, in every respect, qualified to cooperate with Captain Franklin. They were Doctor John Richardson, a surgeon in the royal navy, and Mr. George Back and Mr. Robert Hood, two admiralty midshipmen, who were joined with him in the Expedition. Doctor Richardson united, with his professional attainments, considerable knowledge as a naturalist, and Messrs. Back and Hood were not only capable of assisting in all

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\* Narrative of a Journey to the Shores of the Polar Sea, in the Years 1819, 20, 21, and 22. By John Franklin, Captain R. N. F. R. S. and Commander of the Expedition. 4to.

the requisite observations, but of making correct drawings of the land, the natives, and the various objects of natural history. The wisdom of government had also anticipated the advantages which might result from the expedition both to commerce and to science; for it appears that Captain Franklin was instructed to visit the spot on the Copper-Mine river, from whence native copper had been brought down by the Indians to the Hudson's Bay establishment, for the purpose of enabling Doctor Richardson to make such observations as might be useful for the improvement of trade or the study of mineralogy.

After touching at Stromness, where Captain Franklin engaged four bowmen and steersmen to assist in the expedition, the Prince of Wales sailed on the 16th of June, and arrived at York Factory, Hudson's Bay, the 30th of August. Here, in consequence of the united opinions of the Governor and gentlemen belonging to the Hudson's Bay Company, and the partners of the North-west Company, who were then under detention at the factory, Captain Franklin determined to proceed through the interior by the route of Cumberland House and the chain of posts to the Great Slave Lake. The route directly to the northward was, in fact, rendered impracticable by the impossibility of procuring guides and hunters along the coast, as well as by that of obtaining a vessel capable of conveying him as far north as Wager Bay. The Esquimaux inhabitants had also left Churchill a month previous to his arrival, and no interpreter could be procured from that quarter, before their return in the following spring. Captain Franklin passed but ten days at York Factory, all of which were busily employed in preparations for commencing the journey. The Governor supplied one of his largest boats, which was, however, too small to contain the provisions, stores, and ammunition, of which the expedition stood in need. The party commenced their voyage into the interior of America on the 9th of September, and the difficulties they experienced in the very outset, formed a melancholy presage of the fatigues and hardships for which they were reserved. The current was too rapid to admit of the use of oars to advantage, and the crew were compelled to drag the boat by a line to which they were harnessed. The operation was extremely laborious in these rivers, in consequence of the declivity of the banks, the roughness and wetness of the roads, and the trees, which impeded the passage in a great variety of directions. It was, however, constantly practised, so numerous were the rapids, rocks, and shoals they had to pass during their journey to Cumberland House, which occupied forty-four days. The travelling distance between York Factory and Cumberland House was about six hundred and ninety miles, and the position of the latter was, according to their observations, latitude  $53^{\circ} 56' 40''$  N., longitude  $102. 16. 41.$  W., by the chronometers; variation  $17. 17. 29.$  E., dip of the needle,  $83. 12. 50.$

Of the establishments maintained here by the Hudson's Bay and the North-west Company, Captain Franklin gives the following account:

“The houses of the two Companies, at this post, are situated close to each other, at the upper extremity of a narrow island, which separates Pine Island Lake from the Saskatchewan river, and are about two miles and three quarters distant from the latter in a northern direction. They are log-houses, built without much attention to comfort, surrounded by lofty stockades, and flanked with wooden bastions. The difficulty of conveying glass into the

interior has precluded the use of that material in the construction of the windows, and its place is poorly supplied by parchment, imperfectly made by the native women from the skin of the rein-deer. Should this post, however, continue to be the residence of Governor Williams, it will be much improved in a few years, as he is devoting his attention to that point. The land around Cumberland House is low, but the soil, from having a considerable intermixture of limestone, is good, and capable of producing abundance of corn, and vegetables of every description. Many kinds of pot-herbs have already been brought to some perfection, and the potatoes bid fair to equal those of England. The spontaneous productions of nature would afford ample nourishment for all the European animals. Horses feed extremely well even during the winter, and so would oxen, if provided with hay, which may be easily done. Pigs also improve, but require to be kept warm in the winter. Hence it appears, that the residents might, with common attention, render themselves far less dependant on the Indians for support, and be relieved from the great anxiety which they too often suffer when the hunters are unsuccessful. The neighbourhood of the houses has been much cleared of wood, from the great demand for fuel; there is, therefore, little to admire in the surrounding scenery, especially in its winter garb; few animated objects occur to enliven the scene; an occasional fox, marten, rabbit, or wolf, and a few birds, contribute the only variety. The birds which remained, were ravens, magpies, partridges, cross-bills, and woodpeckers. In this universal stillness, the residents at a post feel little disposed to wander abroad, except when called forth by their occupations; and as ours were of a kind best performed in a warm room, we imperceptibly acquired a sedentary habit. In going out, however, we never suffered the slightest inconvenience from the change of temperature, though the thermometer, in the open air, stood occasionally thirty degrees below zero."

During their residence at Cumberland House, which continued until the 18th of January, 1820, they had the most favourable opportunities of forming a correct estimate of the character, manners, usages, and opinions of the Crees, the Indians who inhabit the district belonging to that post. They are, indeed, thinly scattered,

“ — rari nantes in gurgite vasto,”

over an immense surface of country. The whole district extending about one hundred and fifty miles from East to West along the banks of the Saskatchewan, and about as far from North to South, and comprehending on a rough calculation, upwards of twenty thousand square miles, was then inhabited by only one hundred and twenty Indian hunters. Of these a few have several wives, but the majority have only one, and as some are unmarried, the number of married women may be considered as slightly exceeding that of the hunters. The women marry very young, have a custom of suckling their children for several years, and are besides constantly exposed to fatigue and often to famine; hence they are not prolific, bearing, upon an average, not more than four children, of whom two may attain the age of puberty. Upon these data, the amount of each family may be stated at five, and the whole population in the district at five hundred. The third chapter of the work, written by Dr. Richardson, and appropriated to this subject, contains a variety of interesting particulars. It appears, that the Crees are a vain, fickle, improvident and indolent race, not very strict in their adherence to truth, but at the same time observant of the rights of property, susceptible of the kinder affections, capable of friendship, very hospitable, tolerably kind to their women,

and decidedly inclined to peace. Much of the faulty part of their character originates, no doubt, in their mode of life. Accustomed as a hunter to place his main dependence on chance for his subsistence, the Cree takes little thought of to-morrow ; and the most offensive part of his behaviour, the habit of boasting, is probably assumed as a necessary part of his armour, which operates upon the fears of his enemies. Every Cree is in dread of the medical or conjuring powers of his neighbour, but at the same time exalts his own attainments to the skies. "I am god-like," is a common expression among them ; and they prove their divinity by eating live coals, and by various tricks, most of which are too clumsy for the most awkward of our jugglers. A medicine bag, furnished with a little bit of indigo, blue vitriol, or vermilion, is, in the possession of a noted conjuror, such an object of terror to the rest of the tribe, as to enable him to fatten at his ease upon the labours of his deluded countrymen. A pleasant anecdote of an impostor of this description is related by Doctor Richardson.

"Notwithstanding the then miserable state of the Indians, the rapacity of this wretch had been preying upon their necessities, and a poor hunter was actually at the moment pining away under the influence of his threats. The mighty conjuror, immediately on his arrival at the house, began to trumpet forth his powers, boasting, among other things, that although his hands and feet were tied as securely as possible, yet, when placed in a conjuring-house, he would speedily disengage himself by the aid of two or three familiar spirits, who were attendant on his call. He was instantly taken at his word ; and that his exertions might not be without an aim, a *capot* or great coat was promised as the reward of his success. A conjuring-house having been erected in the usual form, that is, by sticking four willows in the ground and tying their tops to a hoop at the height of six or eight feet, he was fettered completely by winding several fathoms of rope round his body and extremities, and placed in its narrow apartment, not exceeding two feet in diameter. A moose skin being then thrown over the frame, secluded him from our view. He forthwith began to chant a kind of hymn in a very monotonous tone. The rest of the Indians, who seemed in some doubt respecting the powers of a devil when put in competition with those of a white man, ranged themselves around, and watched the result with anxiety. Nothing remarkable occurred for a long time. The conjuror continued his song at intervals, and it was occasionally taken up by those without. In this manner an hour and a half elapsed ; but at length our attention, which had begun to flag, was roused by the violent shaking of the conjuring-house. It was instantly whispered round the circle, that at least one devil had crept under the moose-skin. But it proved to be only the "God-like man" trembling with cold. He had entered the lists, stript to the skin, and the thermometer stood very low that evening. His attempts were continued, however, with considerable resolution for half an hour longer, when he reluctantly gave in. He had found no difficulty in slipping through the noose when it was formed by his countrymen ; but, in the present instance, the knot was tied by Governor Williams, who is an expert sailor. After this unsuccessful exhibition his credit sunk amazingly, and he took the earliest opportunity of sneaking away from the fort."

The Expedition took up sixty-four days in its progress from Cumberland House to Fort Chipewyan, during which it travelled between eight and nine hundred miles, subject to an intermixture of agreeable and disagreeable circumstances. Among the most prominent of the latter was that of walking in snow-shoes, which was attended with the painful inconvenience of marching with a weight of

nearly three pounds constantly attached to galled feet and swelled ancles.

Having left Fort Chipewyan with three canoes and a bare sufficiency of provisions for one day's consumption, the Expedition, after surmounting the various difficulties of the rivers, lakes, and portages, succeeded in reaching Fort Providence, the last establishment of the traders in that direction. It is situated, according to their observations, in latitude 62. 17. 19. N., longitude 114. 9. 28. W.; the variation of the compass was 33. 35. 55. E., and the dip of the needle 86. 38. 02. Here as they approached the grand object which they had in view, their anxiety to prosecute their journey increased, and having mustered the officers and men, they found that the expedition, on leaving Fort Providence, on the afternoon of the 2d of August, consisted of six English—Captain Franklin, Doctor Richardson, Messrs. Back and Hood, Mr. Wentzel, clerk to the North-West Company, John Hepburn, a seaman,—and seventeen Canadian voyagers, three interpreters, and three women, the wives of three of the voyagers, who were brought for the purpose of making shoes and clothes for the men at the winter establishment. Their course was then directed towards the Copper-Mine river, through a line of country which had not been previously visited by any European; and they were accompanied by Akaitcho, a chief of considerable importance in that quarter, and a party of his Indians. On the 20th of August, they arrived at the situation where Akaitcho proposed that they should pass the winter. It possessed all the advantages they could have desired; and they placed their house, formed of the wood of pine trees, on the summit of the bank of a small river, commanding a fine prospect of the surrounding country. The total length of the voyage from Chipewyan was computed at five hundred and fifty-three miles. The name of Fort Enterprize was given to their new residence erected on the summit of the bank. Our limits prevent us from noticing the transactions which occurred at this spot, to which Captain Franklin, with the exception of a short excursion, was for ten months, until his departure on the 14th of June, 1821, necessarily confined by the severity of the weather. Provided with three Canadians, two Esquimaux, and two Indian hunters, Captain Franklin proceeded towards the final object of his anxious wishes. Doctor Richardson had gone forward with another party, but they effected a junction shortly afterwards. The navigation of the Copper-Mine river did not prove so difficult as they had been led to expect; but the impracticability of navigating it upwards from the sea, and the want of wood for forming an establishment, appeared insuperable objections to rendering the collection of copper in that part worthy of mercantile speculation. The Copper mountains vary in height from one thousand two hundred to one thousand five hundred feet. A party of twenty-one persons, consisting of the officers, some of the voyagers, and all the Indians, visited them in search of specimens of the ore. They travelled for nine hours over a considerable space of ground, but found only a few small pieces of native copper. The uniformity of the mountains is interrupted by narrow valleys, traversed by small streams; and the best specimens of metal were found among the stones in these valleys. It would seem, that when the Indians see any sparry substance projecting above the surface, they dig there; but

they have no other rule to direct them, and have never discovered the metal in its original repository.

The Expedition being on the 18th of July within a short distance of the sea, was abandoned by the Indians, who returned home. After passing a few rapids, the river became wider and more navigable for canoes, flowing between banks of alluvial sand. An encampment was formed on the western bank at its junction with the sea. Its situation was ascertained to be latitude 67. 47. 50. N., longitude 115. 36. 49. W., the variation of the compass 46. 25. 52. E., and dip of the needle 80. 5. 07. Here Mr. Wentzel, with four of the Canadian voyagers, left them for Fort Enterprize. Captain Franklin had discharged them for the purpose of reducing, as much as possible, the expenditure of provision; and the remainder of the party, including officers, amounted to twenty persons. The travelling distance from Fort Enterprize to the north of the Copper-Mine river, was estimated at three hundred and thirty-four miles; and the canoes and baggage were dragged over snow and ice for one hundred and seventeen miles of that distance.

Captain Franklin commenced his voyage on the Hyperborean Sea, the 21st of July, during which he sailed between five and six hundred miles along the shore, exploring bays and inlets; and it was not until the middle of August, when his stock of provision was reduced to a bare sufficiency for three days' consumption, and the hope he had cherished of meeting the Esquimaux, and obtaining a further supply, was extinct, that he felt convinced of the absolute necessity of returning. A farther advance must have endangered the lives of the whole party, and prevented the knowledge of what had been effected from reaching England. Here his own observations, with respect to the practicability of a North-west Passage, and the probable success of Captain Parry's Expedition, assume a peculiar degree of interest:

“ Our researches, as far as they have gone, seem to favour the opinion of those who contend for the practicability of a North-West Passage. The general line of coast probably runs east and west, nearly in the latitude assigned to Mackenzie's River, the Sound into which Kotzebue entered, and Repulse Bay; and very little doubt can, in my opinion, be entertained of the existence of a continued sea, in or about that line of direction. The existence of whales too, on this part of the coast, evidenced by the whalebone we found in Esquimaux Cove, may be considered as an argument for an open sea; and a connexion with Hudson's Bay is rendered more probable from the same kind of fish abounding on the coasts we visited, and on those to the north of Churchill River. I allude more particularly to the Capelin or *Salmo Arcticus*, which we found in large shoals in Bathurst's Inlet, and which not only abounds, as Augustus told us, in the bays in his country, but swarms in the Greenland firths. The portion of the sea over which we passed is navigable for vessels of any size; the ice we met, particularly after quitting Detention Harbour, would not have arrested a strong boat. The chain of islands affords shelter from all heavy seas, and there are good harbours at convenient distances. I entertain, indeed, sanguine hopes that the skill and exertions of my friend Captain Parry will soon render this question no longer problematical. His task is doubtless an arduous one, and, if ultimately successful, may occupy two and perhaps three seasons; but confiding as I do, from personal knowledge, in his perseverance and talent for surmounting difficulties, the strength of his ships, and the abundance of provisions with which they are stored, I have very little apprehension of his safety. As I understand

his object was to keep the coast of America close on board, he will find in the spring of the year, before the breaking up of the ice can permit him to pursue his voyage, herds of deer flocking in abundance to all parts of the coast, which may be procured without difficulty; and, even later in the season, additions to his stock of provision may be obtained on many parts of the coast, should circumstances give him leisure to send out hunting-parties. With the trawl or seine nets also, he may almost every where get abundance of fish even without retarding his progress. Under these circumstances I do not conceive that he runs any hazard of wanting provisions, should his voyage be prolonged even beyond the latest period of time which is calculated upon. Drift timber may be gathered at many places in considerable quantities, and there is a fair prospect of his opening a communication with the Esquimaux, who come down to the coast to kill seals in the spring, previous to the ice breaking up; and from whom, if he succeeds in conciliating their good-will, he may obtain provision, and much useful assistance.

“If he makes for Copper-Mine river, as he probably will do, he will not find it in the longitude as laid down on the charts; but he will probably find what would be more interesting to him, a post, which we erected on the 26th of August, at the mouth of Hood’s River, which is nearly, as will appear hereafter, in that longitude, with a flag upon it, and a letter at the foot of it, which may convey to him some useful information. It is possible, however, that he might keep outside of the range of islands which skirt this part of the coast.”

Captain Franklin originally intended, should the severity of the season compel him to relinquish the survey, to return by the way of the Copper-Mine river; but his scanty stock of provisions, and the length of the voyage, impressed upon him the necessity of selecting a shorter course. He, therefore, resolved to proceed at once to Arctic Sound, where he had found a greater number of animals than at any other place; to advance by Hood’s river as far as it was practicable, and to construct small canoes out of the materials of the larger ones, which would be more portable in traversing the barren grounds to Fort Enterprize. He embarked on the 22d of August, 1821, and the journey was continued with the assistance of canoes, or on foot, amid the most afflicting incidents and the most distressing privations, until the 23d of September, when they were deprived of the only canoe left them. They were now reduced to an emaciated state, all destitute of strength, and many bereft of hope. The slightest breeze seemed to penetrate through their debilitated frames. The description of their sufferings is melancholy in the extreme.

“Our progress next day was extremely slow, from the difficulty of managing the canoe in passing over the hills, as the breeze was fresh. Peltier, who had it in charge, having received several severe falls, became impatient, and insisted on leaving his burden, as it had already been much injured by the accidents of this day; and no arguments we could use were sufficient to prevail on him to continue carrying it. Vaillant was, therefore, directed to take it, and we proceeded forward. Having found he got on very well, and was walking even faster than Mr. Hood could, in his present debilitated state, I pushed forward to stop the rest of the party, who had got out of our sight during the delay which the discussion about the canoe had occasioned. I accidentally passed the body of the men, and followed the tracks of two persons who had separated from the rest, until two P. M., when, not seeing any person, I retraced my steps and on my way met Dr. Richardson, who had also missed the party whilst he was employed gathering *tripe de roche*, and we went back together in search of them. We found they had halted among some willows, where they had picked up some pieces of skin, and a few bones of deer that had been devoured by the wolves last spring. They had rendered the bones friable

by burning, and eaten them, as well as the skin; and several of them had added their old shoes to the repast. Peltier and Vaillant were with them, having left the canoe, which, they said, was so completely broken by another fall, as to be rendered incapable of repair, and entirely useless. The anguish this intelligence occasioned may be conceived, but it is beyond my power to describe it. Impressed, however, with the necessity of taking it forward, even in the state these men represented it to be, we urgently desired them to fetch it; but they declined going, and the strength of the officers was inadequate to the task. To their infatuated obstinacy on this occasion, a great portion of the melancholy circumstances which attended our subsequent progress may, perhaps, be attributed. The men now seemed to have lost all hope of being preserved; and all the arguments we could use, failed in stimulating them to the least exertion. After consuming the remains of the bones and horns of the deer we resumed our march, and, in the evening, reached a contracted part of the lake, which perceiving to be shallow, we forded and encamped on the opposite side. Heavy rain began soon afterwards, and continued all the night. On the following morning the rain had so wasted the snow, that the tracks of Mr. Back and his companions, who had gone before with the hunters, were traced with difficulty; and the frequent showers during the day almost obliterated them. The men became furious at the apprehension of being deserted by the hunters, and some of the strongest throwing down their bundles, prepared to set out after them, intending to leave the more weak to follow as they could. The entreaties and threats of the officers, however, prevented their executing this mad scheme; but not before Solomon Belanger was despatched with orders for Mr. Back to halt until we should join him. Soon afterwards a thick fog came on, but we continued our march and overtook Mr. Back, who had been detained in consequence of his companions having followed some recent tracks of deer. After halting an hour, during which we refreshed ourselves with eating our old shoes and a few scraps of leather, we set forward in the hope of ascertaining whether an adjoining piece of water was the Copper-Mine river or not, but were soon compelled to return and encamp, for fear of a separation of the party, as we could not see each other at ten yards distance. The fog diminishing towards the evening, Augustus was sent to examine the water, but having lost his way he did not reach the tents before midnight, when he brought the information of its being a lake. We supped upon *tripe de roche*, and enjoyed a comfortable fire, having found some pines, seven or eight feet high, in a valley near the encampment."

It appears, that the Canadian voyagers, although inured from their infancy to constant exercise and fatigue, were as little capable of supporting the calamities and hardships of the journey as the Europeans. Captain Franklin at length reached Fort Enterprize with a few of them; Doctor Richardson had been left behind with Mr. Hood, Hepburn, and Michel the Iroquois. That part of the Doctor's narrative which relates to the strange behaviour of Michel and the murder of Mr. Hood, is replete with horror.

Captain Franklin reached Moose-deer island on the 17th of December, where he and his companions were enabled, by the kind attentions of the officers of the Hudson's Bay Company, to recruit their strength; and after a residence of five months, to proceed on their journey. He arrived at York Factory on the 14th of July, 1822. "And thus terminated," says Captain Franklin, "our long, fatiguing, and disastrous travels in North America, having journeyed by water and by land (including our navigation of the Polar Sea) five thousand five hundred and fifty miles."

The value of this important work is much increased by an Appen-



dix, containing many useful and curious geognostical, astronomical, and meteorological observations, with a considerable variety of botanical and mineralogical specimens, supplied by Doctor Richardson, Captain Franklin, and Lieutenant Hood. A zoological appendix is furnished by Joseph Sabine, Esq. F. R. S., and notices on the fishes, and a botanical index by Doctor Richardson.

A curious discovery, in the observations on the aurora borealis, appears to have been made by Lieutenant Hood, for whom Captain Franklin claims the merit of having been the first to ascertain that the altitude of the aurora, in those high northern latitudes, is far inferior to that assigned to it by any former observer. Lieutenant Hood had also the merit of demonstrating the important fact of the action of the aurora on the compass needle. This he accomplished by a skilful adaptation of a Vernier to the graduated circle of a Kater's compass, which enabled him to read off small deviations of the needle. The observations made at Cumberland House by Doctor Richardson, and at the Basquiau by Lieutenant Hood, with respect to the altitude of the aurora from the earth, are opposite to the general opinion of meteorologists; but of the certainty of the result, no doubt can be entertained. An attenuated aurora has been sometimes observed to flash across  $100^{\circ}$  of the sky in a single second; a quickness of motion altogether inconsistent with the height of sixty or seventy miles, the least which has been hitherto ascribed to it. This kind of aurora is not brighter than the milky way, and resembles sheet-lightning in its motions.

The geognostical remarks of Doctor Richardson confirm the observations of Werner, Humboldt, Von Buch, Saussure, Ebel, and Daubuisson in many districts in the continent of Europe and in America, and of Professor Jameson in Scotland, that the common direction of the primitive and transition strata is nearly from N. E. to S. W. According to the general result of his notes, the position of the rocks, traced through twelve degrees of latitude, was N. E. and S. W. as the average direction of their strata.

Mr. Sabine's appendix will be found highly interesting to zoologists, and the information supplied in this branch of natural history by Doctor Richardson is not less relatively advantageous than the scientific benefits imparted by their labours and exertions in the more important objects of their mission.

The enterprizing spirit, undaunted resolution, and indefatigable perseverance of Captain Franklin and his companions are now consigned to immortality. "Not a loop to hang a doubt on" is left to question the veracity of their narrative in its most minute details; and while their memories must for ever be entwined with the glories of their native country, the rest of Europe will not fail to contemplate, with admiration, the magnitude of their sufferings, and the results of their exertions.

This noble work is presented to the world in a manner worthy in every respect of its character, spirit, and objects. It is embellished with numerous charts and plates, admirably executed. The plates taken from drawings, executed on the spot by Lieutenants Hood and Back exhibit the costume of the different tribes through which they passed, the most expressive features of the interior, and several striking scenes along the coast. The tables of science are distinguished for precision and perspicuity.